

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 02925 181457Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 H-01 HA-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /050 W
-----058945 190656Z /11
R 181330Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1758

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: CARR (BAYS , JOSEPH A.)
SUBJECT: DETENTION OF MASONIC ORDER MEMBERS

REF: 77 JIDDA 8842

1. DURING CALL 17 APRIL 1978, ON HRH PRINCE NAIF BIN ABDULLAZIZ ON ANOTHER AMCIT ARREST CASE (SEPTTEL), DCM AND CONSUL GENERAL TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE CASE OF BAYS, FRANCE AND FREYGANG, ARRESTED DURING POLICE RAID ON MASONIC LODGE MMEETING 4 OCTOBER 1977. AFTER MONTH OF INTERROGATION, THE THREE MEN WERE RELEASED BUT HAVE NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

2. PRINCE NAIF RESPONDED THAT WHAT MEN WERE DOING WAS ILLEGAL UNDER SAUDI LAW AND WAS DIRECTIED AGAINST THE STATES RELIGION, ISLAM. HE REALIZED THEY COULD HAVE BEEN IGNORANT OF LAW, BUT WONDERED WHY THEY MET IN SECRET IF THEY WERE REALLY UNAWARE MEETING WAS ILLEGAL. DCM POINTED OUT THAT MASONIC ORDER NOT RPT NOT ILLEGAL IN US AND LODGES MET REGULARLY ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY. PEOPLE INVOLVED IN MEETING DID NOT HAVE ANY POLITICAL MOTIVES OR HOSTILE INTENTIONS TOWARDS SAUDI ARABIA.

3. PRINCE NAIF REPEATED HIS POSITION, BUT PROMISED TO REVEIW CASE AND IF "CRIME" NOT TOO SERIOUS, HE MIGHT
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INTERVENE. IN TURN, HE ASKED EMBASSY TO LEAD EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO MAKE AMERICAN RESIDENTS MORE AWARE OF SAUDI LAW AND THEIR OBLIGATION TO RESPECT IT. WE ASSURED PRINCE ALL ELEMENTS OF EMBASSY WERE ACTIVE IN SUCH PROGRAM, ESPECIALLY CONSULAR AND COMMERCIAL SECTIONS.
WEST

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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